

Dear Sir,

Boston April 29 - 1777

Janv. Here last evening from Rutland The barracks there are full of the artillery, and lite infantry, of the Convention. The officers 34 in number under Maj^r Carter, are all on parole in the Township of Rutland - Some Quartered others taken Lodgings, so that they are all provided for, and well satisfied. I have 35 Germans, 2 British Soldiers and 11 Women and Children there - They are coming in daily - I propose filling up one or 2 Barrns, if the General approves of it, shall then collect them all - beg to know how I am to proceed in furnishing them with Provisions, as the resolve of Congress forbids supplying them farther unless its paid for in hard Cash, in 30 Days - I shall apply to Gen. Phillips this for that purpose, whether he as a servant to the King will do it I can't say - rather expect will say, as a Conventioneer, has nothing to do with Prisoners of War - tho I mean to push the matter hard, as it will be an act of humanity in him to prevent their suffering, while in his power - I find there are 6 prisoners got away since I left this, and went to Rutland, by neglect of the Guards - (as I am inform, I have not had time, to make particular inquiries as yet, - could I have them in the Town of Rutland collected - and Advertized, that all British Soldiers should be apprehended, and Delivered, to me, would prevent their getting away - now they have all the opportunity of getting off they could wish - as they are all over the Country, both Prisoners of War and Conventioneers - Who Deserth, go in the Country, till an opportunity offers for them to get to the enemy I have sent of above 200 getting into N. York, some time past, many of those had enlisted in our service, which is done for no other purpose than to get away, and as their Description is not taken, will be difficult to detect, ^{there} hereafter should they fall in our hands - I am inform, that 35 listed in one Company and Marched from Worcester - that 31 got away before they got to Camp, this I got from one of the Sergeants - The Germans I have a different opinion off - they are attached to the Country and believe will make good Soldiers, in particular as their resentment runs high against the British troops - Who have frequently laid their misfortune to the conduct of the Germans - I can manage 100 Germans easier than 10 British troops - Col. Davis is now at Rutland with Carpenters to build -

Temperary Barracks in the same mode I propos^d those to be
built in Connecticut — all those inconveniences, I acquainted
you with after my arrival at Rutland. Respecting the situation of
the Barracks, Stockade, Delay^s of the Committee &c — Davis considers
it in same point of view that I did, — has now laid the whole matter
before the General, who has it now in consideration — This morn-
ing rec^d your favour of the 20 March — as Col^l Ward is going ^{him} on to Head Quarters I shall embrace the opportunity by following ^{him}
to send this on; To whom I refer you for particulars — The High Op-
inion I have of your Zeal and Attention to the publick Cause
is Satisfactory to me; that you will never neglect giving me, every
advice and Assistance, in your power — I return you my cordial
Thanks, for the line of my conduct meeting your approbation
— as you^l see Col^l Campbell before this reaches you, accom-
pany^d by Capt^l Bliss — With whom I sent Letters, and every
thing I could collect at that time, (which I make no doubt
you have rec^d.) I shall endeavour to execute every order, I rec^d
— with the utmost Dispatch, as far as in my power —
I congratulate you on News rec^d by Mr. Dean — send you
inclos^d what papers I can collect — I am
Dear Sir your most Obedient

Hum: Serv^t

Joshua Mersereau

BW 545

Elias Bond not Log^d

Ch.E. 7.50